

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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BY CABLE
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This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. [redacted] S.D. Ignatyev was a Malenkov both the doctor arrests and the subsequent purging of Ignatyev as evidence of a fight between Malenkov and Beriya, with Beriya purging infiltrators into his ranks.

2. [redacted] 25X1

3. [redacted] someone was interested in getting Stalin's court physicians out of the way by accusation, but that once he is dead there is no reason to keep the physicians out of action. i.e., the murder plot of the Alsops and of Borkenau, are indulging in guesswork all that is certain now is that there are indications of serious trouble inside the Soviet Union and there is reason for caution on the part of the West. 25X1

4. [redacted] With Stalin there was a certain stability. Now it will be a long time before we again find a known quantity in the Soviet Union with whom we can negotiate. The identity and/or characteristics of such a person have not yet crystallized. As for the Satellites, we do not know what will happen to the Communist viceroys. One thing we know is that they are unsure of themselves, especially since Ignatyev presumably coordinated the recent Satellite purges. But they will remain loyal and do their best to hang on, leaving not much

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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-2-

of an opening for the West."

1. Comment: One-time leading German Communist Franz Borkenau claimed in the 23 January 1953 issue of Rheinischer Merkur that the arrest of the doctors indicated the liquidation of the group whom Stalin had used to kill off his adversaries and predicted that Stalin would be murdered. Borkenau interpreted the arrest of the doctors as a Malenkov countermeasure to Stalin's attempt to overthrow him. In the 13 March issue of Rheinischer Merkur, Borkenau cited Stalin's death as confirmation of this prediction.

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